

# **Coeur d'Alene Basin Fish Tissue Analysis and Updates to the Consumption Advisory**

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The Coeur d'Alene river basin including the Coeur d'Alene River and Chain Lakes, South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, Coeur d'Alene Lake, and Spokane River has been impacted by historical mining activities and the Bunker Hill Superfund Site. Fish sampling in the basin was completed in 2016 and tissue analyzed to assess concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury. This sampling effort updates and expands the previous fish consumption advisory for Coeur d'Alene Lake.

Sampling and tissue analysis was completed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Species collected included bass, panfish, bullhead, northern pike, kokanee, and trout. As part of the Idaho Fish Consumption Advisory Program, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare assessed tissue concentrations to determine potential human health risks due to consumption of fish and provide recommended meal limits.

Mercury is the main contaminant of concern, especially for pregnant women and children. The updated consumption advisory includes site-specific recommended meal limits for northern pike, panfish, and bullhead, primarily for pregnant women and children. For some sites, recommended meal limits for bass are more restrictive than the current statewide bass consumption advisory of less than 8 meals/month for the general adult population and less than 2 meals/month for pregnant women and children.